

Stout / ALUMNUS

STOUT STATE UNIVERSITY - MENOMONIE, WISCONSIN 54751

SUMMER

1970

Experiment in Education



Students' Week: A New Freedom



Making frames for "mini bikes"

"If a student is to learn more about the 'game of learning,' he must have time to himself — time in which to wonder, to speculate, to talk with his fellow students . . . time for idle, aimless, undirected reading . . . time, perhaps, to go to the library to prove that a teacher was wrong and, perhaps, to find that he himself was wrong."

These words by University President William J. Micheels set the tone for Students' Week, an experimental period for Stout students to pursue their own interests in whatever areas they saw fit. Under the banner "SWEET WEEK" (an acronym standing for Students' Week Encourages Enlightened Thinking), March 15-23 was set aside for a strikingly new approach to education. It was a period during which a new focus was placed on education — a focus that allowed each student to become responsible for his own learning.

During the week classes were dismissed, textbook assignments were eliminated and formal testing was waived. University facilities were available upon request but the initiative was left to the students. When Micheels initially announced plans for Students' Week, he specified that the program should be student oriented. It was just that.

Students were responsible for designing their own projects and making the necessary arrangements to carry out these projects, both on and off campus. Faculty members were available for assistance when help was desired, but they intervened only when a specific request was made by the students. Some faculty members offered suggestions for projects, but no student was forced to participate.

In speaking with students Micheels put it this way: "This will be an experiment in which you students have primary responsibility for determining the learning experiences you wish to undertake. This will be your 'baby' — your 'happening.'"

To facilitate the massive undertaking involved in Students' Week, a steering committee was formed

Time to Think; Learn; Discover

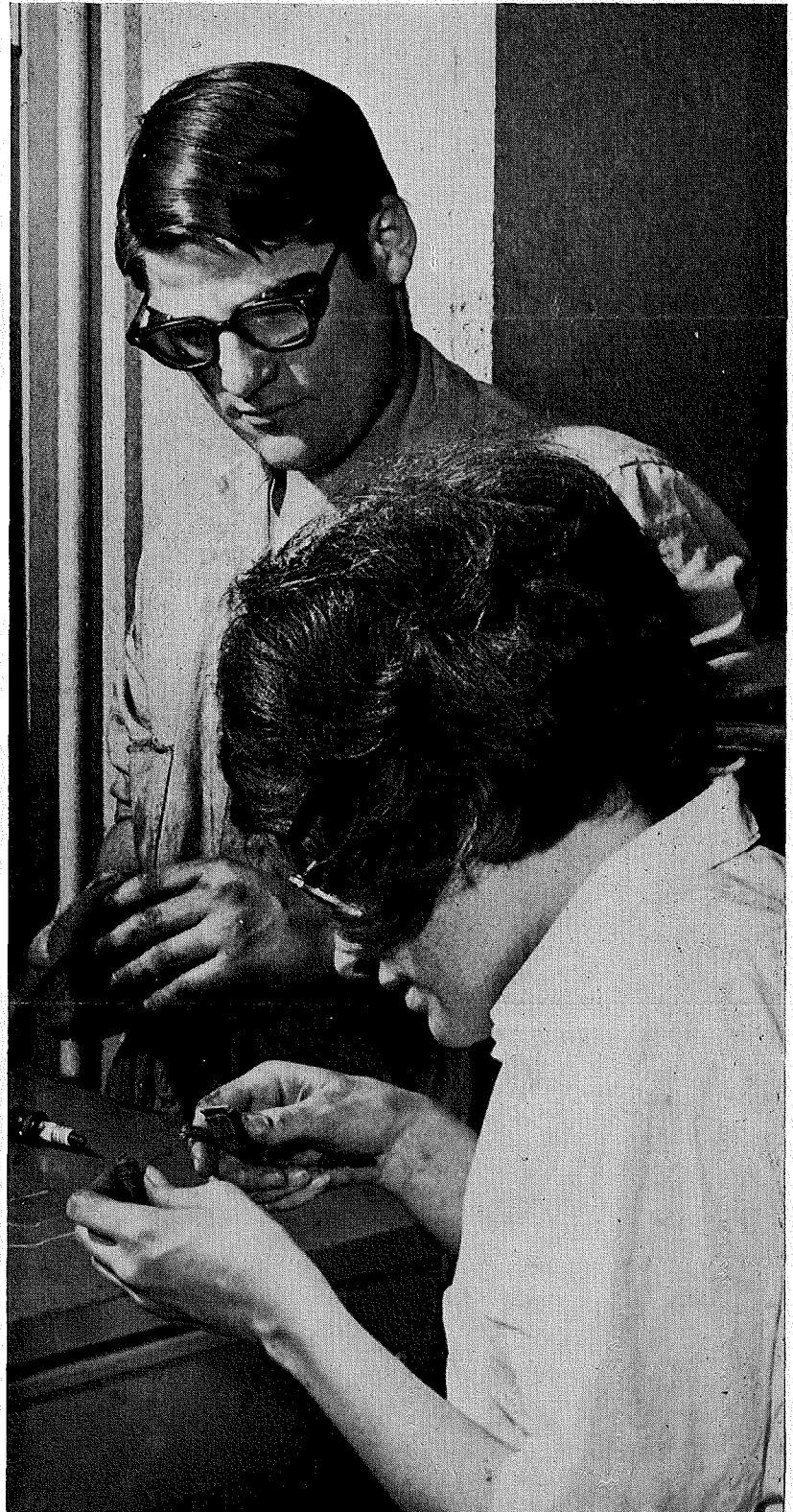
and a central headquarters was set up to act as a clearing house for individual and group projects. Again these functions were performed mainly by students.

Although students were encouraged to use the week-long period as an opportunity to expand their learning experience, participation was not mandatory. "In talking with students last spring, they expressed concern that some students might 'goof off' during Students' Week," Micheels said. "This is not of great concern to me. On any given day or week during the school year we have a goodly number of students who are 'goofing off.' If they do not want to take advantage of this opportunity to play their game of learning, that is up to them. They will be missing what will be an exciting adventure."

With preparations complete and the week upon them students spread out from coast to coast, touring factories, visiting art centers, working in poverty areas and observing educational systems. On campus there were special laboratory sessions, group discussions and individual projects.

A group of Stout students, interested in fashion and design, arranged a tour of New York City, with an emphasis in these areas. The group consisted of 28 students majoring in fashion merchandising and 15 students studying interior design. Their tour included stops at leading magazines and trade journals dealing with fashion and design; visits to prominent displays and showrooms; and excursions to a number of cultural centers in the New York area.

Another group chose to work in the poverty areas of Appalachia. Most of their time was devoted to helping set up a factory which manufactured stain glass windows and furniture for churches. The factory was started by a church in that area to help relieve the high unemployment rate in Appalachia. Working without pay, the students spent the week painting, varnishing and cleaning the plant. In addition, they also found time to work with some poverty families — chopping wood



Auto mechanics for girls

and tutoring the children.

Students' Week provided valuable time to prepare for the April 22 National Environmental Teach-in. The Stout Environmental Council, consisting of some 75 students and faculty members, held lectures and group discussions on the subject. Water samples and lab experiments were collected to help gain insights on the pollution situation in Dunn County. The activities culminated Friday evening of Students' Week with the appearance of several prominent experts, who discussed the state's environmental crisis.

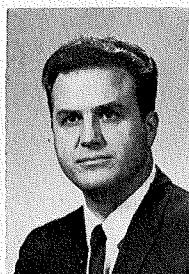
Auto mechanics, a subject that is hardly dear to the hearts of most co-eds, was the week's project for some 36 young ladies at Stout. The girls received instruction on general auto maintenance such as changing tires, replacing the oil and securing the proper automotive lubrication. During the morning lecture sessions, the girls were briefed on what automotive equipment does and how to select a good used car. In the afternoon they made use of the auto mechanics shop to change oil, replace spark plugs and work with a bumper jack.

A more complex mechanical undertaking occurred in another shop on campus. A Stout instructor and several students spent the week constructing a helicopter. All parts, except the engine and the rotor, were made at the University and the device passed preliminary FAA approval. Work extended beyond Students' Week in order to complete the machine.

Fifteen students gained practical experience in manufacturing techniques when they set up a plan to produce "mini-bikes." Using the



Micheels



Flug

University's machine shop, sheet metal shop, welding shop and foundry, the students constructed the bikes from raw materials they had purchased. The project was

organized like a factory situation where individual parts are mass produced. Members of the group divided into different areas of specialty such as engineering, welding, finishing and assembly. Each student contributed 65 dollars for materials and when the project was completed each student kept one of the bikes for himself. Another group chose a similar project, involving the construction of canoes.

A guitar clinic was conducted every morning during Students' Week. Participants ranged from beginners to "experts." Helping themselves and each other, they worked at various levels of proficiency to improve their musical skills. That project has continued beyond Students' Week and may become a regular activity on campus.

Special classes were also available. Among the subjects were photography, textiles, ceramics and other topics.

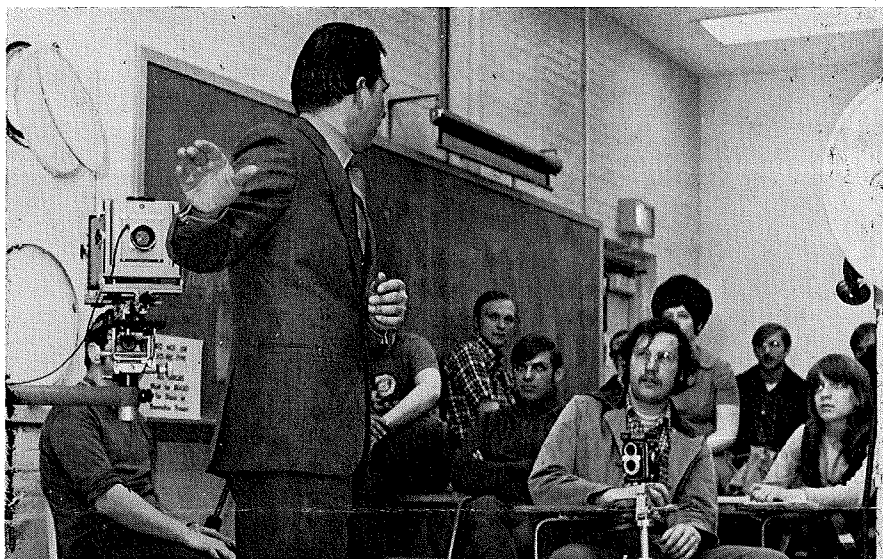
The list of Students' Week projects is unending. Although more than half the students registered their plans at the Students' Week headquarters, many more may have undertaken projects without formal recognition.



A guitar clinic

An evaluation of Students' Week has produced some highly favorable comments and in all likelihood a similar week will be conducted next year. "It was just great because it gave us a chance to do things we ordinarily couldn't do," said Larry Schneck, a sophomore from Minneapolis. Larry was one of several Students' Week leaders who put in hundreds of hours preparing for the project and conducting an evaluation after it was over. "Reaction has indicated that Students' Week has really been beneficial," he said. "It's about the greatest learning experience most of us have ever felt." Reviewing evaluation forms that were circulated around the campus, Larry commented, "We've gotten a lot of good reactions. One student says it is a great incentive that a week is set aside for him to do something of his own personal interest beside studies."

The effect of Students' Week may be a lasting one. "I don't think this school will ever be the same," said Eugene Flug, assistant to the president. "I'm convinced that stu-



Photography lessons

dents have had a sampling of what education can be and they will want to scale those heights again," he commented. Flug is in charge of developing innovative programs in education at Stout. Students' Week was designed to give insight on what direction some of these programs should take. "We can point to the exciting things that happened as a promise of what could happen when faculty and students work together," he said. "A lot of exciting things did happen. We may never know what they all are."

Probably the major benefit of Students' Week was that it placed a great deal of responsibility on the student. "Everyone has to do his own learning," Flug noted. "Students' Week helped give students, faculty, and administration a renewed perspective to put the student back at the center of learning where he belongs."

Emphasizing the importance of self-determination, Flug said, "If a student goes through our institution and feels he can stop learning after receiving a degree, then we've done him an injustice." He noted that education is a continuing process and "after a student gets out of college he has to marshal his own resources." Students' Week was designed to enable students to develop individual learning through independent study and experience.

Another function of Students' Week was the promotion of a better rapport between students and

faculty. It gave many students the opportunity to work with instructors outside a formal classroom situation. "There was real fine cooperation on the part of many of the faculty," Flug said. "This has helped to generate new relationships with students — hopefully relationships on which we can continue to build a more stimulating environment."

Less than a month after Students' Week ended, plans were being formulated to hold a similar week next year. "Next year the whole program will be entirely student initiated and run," Flug explained. The Students' Week Committee will be working with their own budget next year, obtained through the Stout Student Association.

This, perhaps more than anything, indicates that Micheels' dream did come true. It proved that students can indeed be responsible for their own learning processes and that these processes can be a valuable contribution to all aspects to the University community.



Working with a laser

THE COVER

The cover on this edition of the Alumnus, drawn by artist Robert Baker, depicts some of the projects selected for Students' Week. Among them are a canoe building project, a guitar clinic and the construction of "mini-bikes."

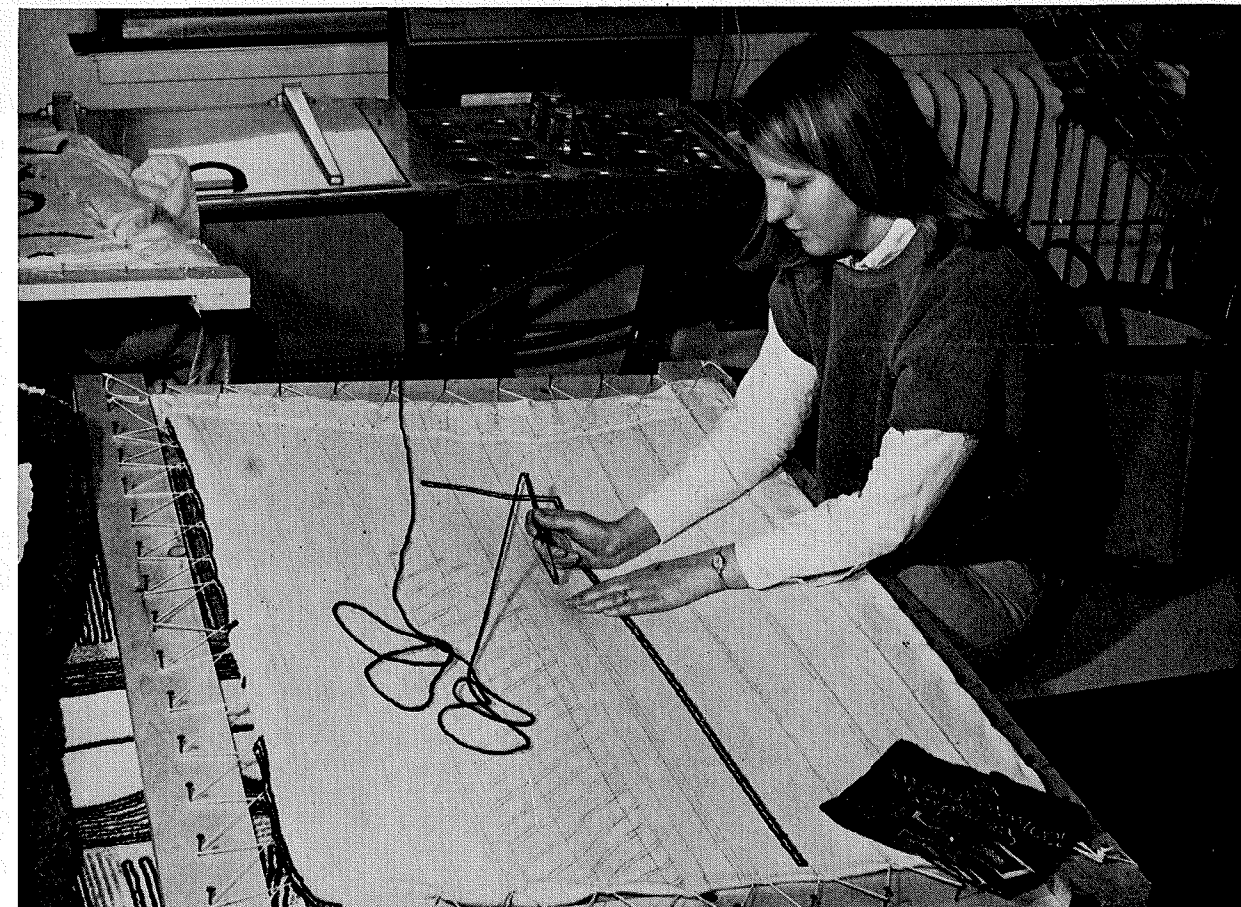
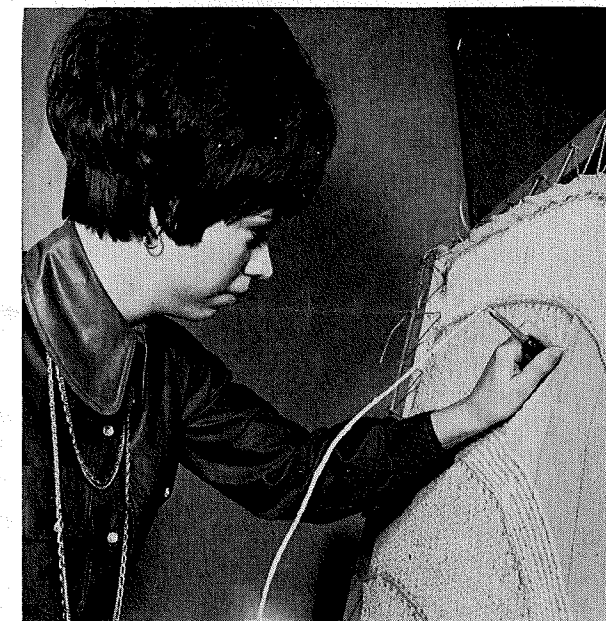
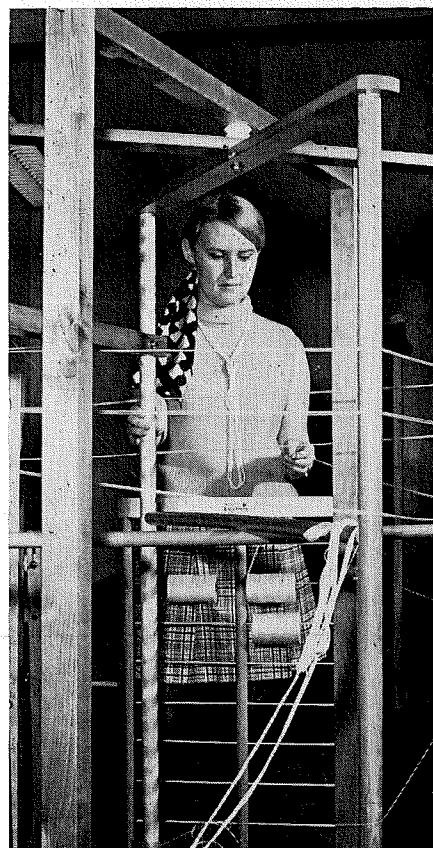
A New Art Medium



Art is traditionally thought of as a creation using media such as paint, clay, stone and wood. However, fabrics are now becoming increasingly popular as an art form. Because of this, the clothing textiles and design department is merging the creativity of design with the aesthetic qualities of art to produce some unusual and attractive pieces. The works give a warm and "alive" quality to homes and offices and provide a new dimension in which the artist can work. A special class dealing with this medium is now available in the School of Home Economics at Stout. Students design their own pieces and construct them both by hand and on mechanical looms.

Many of the principles applied to create the art works can also be employed in the construction of wearing apparel.

... With Fabrics



WILE

COMMENTS



BY JACK WILE
EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY

How can you keep Stout moving ahead (and up), so that it continues to make you, its alumnus, look good? Here are a few suggestions:

First of all, send us good students who will benefit from the career oriented type of experience they will have here at Stout. Send us the caliber of student who will improve the educational process at Stout as he or she is involved in it. We have an excellent admissions counseling program just waiting to help every prospective student. Write to Bob Dahlke in School Relations.

In addition to good students, look for good athletes for Stout. Since the Wisconsin State Universities Conference does not permit scholarships, Stout coaches need your help to keep a good flow of above average athletes into all varsity sports. If you know of a good athlete in basketball, football, baseball, track, cross country, golf, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, wrestling or hockey, the first thing to do is write to Athletic Director Max Sparger. Your information will be handled personally, promptly and thoroughly by the appropriate coach.

Another way that you, an alumnus, can help Stout is to sell the name. Keep up with what's happening at Stout, then "talk it up" every chance you get. Share this Alumnus and other publications with your associates and/or students. Tell others about Stout's new programs and new methods. Introduce Stout to appropriate industries or schools. I will send promotion materials to anyone. Just send me their name and title.

Keep in touch with faculty members you knew best while at Stout. And if you have been out so long you no longer know any of the faculty, keep in touch with the President. Let our staff people at Stout know what's happening. Write letters that tell about changes in your field. Send materials. Visit Stout staff members when you come back to the campus or attend a conference. By keeping in touch, you help keep Stout moving.

Help get Stout people together wherever you are. We keep pretty good records for nearly 7,000 Stout alumni in the national office, and can tell you the names and addresses of Stout Alumni Association members living in or near any given community. If you would like to give some leadership to getting some Stout alumni together for a reception, dinner or picnic, just write to me and I'll help you. It need not be a big affair. Three people can hold a reunion.

Perhaps one of the most important ways that you, the alumnus, can help is to pursue your career in such a manner as to bring credit upon Stout. Whatever you do, do it well. That, after all, is the Stout tradition. Stout graduates do things well. This fact is brought home to me whenever I review the accomplishments of our Distinguished Alumni. They do things well throughout their careers.

Stout will still be around a hundred years from now. What can you do in 1970 to help shape the kind of educational experience that Stout students will be having in the year 2070? Think about it.

Long-Time Faculty Retire at Stout

Two long-time faculty members at Stout will retire this summer after serving many years at the University.

Frank Belisle, director of placement services, will retire after giving 44 years to education in Wisconsin. Belisle has been with Stout for the past 15 years.

He was originally appointed Registrar in 1955, ten days before the name of the school was changed from Stout Institute to Stout State College. Since then he has seen the institution grow into a full fledged university.

Looking toward future plans, Belisle intends to make good use of his retirement. "My interests for 25 years have been in biology," he



Belisle



Miss Harper

said. "I hope to get back to my microscope and field glasses." He also plans to devote his time to hunting, fishing and playing cribbage.

Following Belisle's retirement, the placement director's position will be filled by Robert Schunk, who is now serving as associate placement director.

Another long-time member of the Stout faculty will retire this June. She is Margaret Harper, who served 27 years in the University's home economics program. She taught home economics education and also worked in the food and nutrition department.

In accepting her resignation, University President William J. Michaels stated, "I express my sincere appreciation for the many dedicated years of service which you have given to the many students at Stout State University."

Name New Dean For A-V, Library



Dr. David Barnard, chairman of the audio-visual department at Stout, has been appointed dean of learning resources, according to Dr. Wesley Face, acting vice-president for academic affairs. Barnard will be the first person to serve in the post, which was created recently by the division of Academic Affairs.

In his new position he will head the library and audio-visual center at the University. One of his primary responsibilities will be to merge the print resources of the library with the television and film resources of the Audio-Visual Department to create a single learning center. He will continue to serve as chairman of the audio-visual department and Phyllis Bentley will continue as director of the library.

Barnard has been with Stout since 1947. He was responsible for initiating an audio-visual communications major on the master's degree level at the University in 1960.

Stout Alumni Groups Select New Officers

New officers were elected to one-year terms at the Spring meeting of the Metropolitan Detroit Alumni Association. They are Robert Krause, president; Stanley Tobin, vice-president; Renee Schwaller, secretary; and John Pagels, treasurer.

New officers were also elected for one-year terms at the Spring meeting of the Rock River Valley Stout State University Alumni Association. They are Mrs. George House, president; Carl K. Seitz, vice-president; and Mrs. David Reisinger, secretary-treasurer.

Program Aids New Retirees

The benefits of many years' experience by people in industry and the military are being funneled back into the classroom, under a special summer program at Stout.

The program, the first of its kind in the nation, is aimed at retraining professional personnel in industry and the military for new careers in education when they approach retirement. Its primary objective is to tap an unused resource of trained professional people and prepare them to serve as teachers in higher education—mainly technical institutes and junior colleges.

This is the second summer the course work has been offered at Stout. It is largely made possible through a \$39,000 grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Dr. James Runnalls, coordinator of the program, said the money is used to cover teachers' salaries, materials and other expenses. In addition, participants receive a weekly stipend of \$75, plus \$15 for one dependent. To qualify, participants must be between 50 and 65 years old and hold a minimum of a bachelor's degree.

Runnalls explained that through the training available at Stout, retired persons can apply the knowledge they used in industry and the military to teaching situations. Course work includes methods of teaching, psychology, evaluation and philosophy of vocational-technical education. In addition, the University provides a placement service for those completing the work.

An examination of last summer's participants can offer a number of examples of how military and industrial people can be successfully placed into education.

One of those who completed last year's institute was Bob Bockrath, who had worked in marketing and sales at a large corporation for 35 years. Bockrath went into voluntary retirement at age 57, because he did not want to move to another part of the country. Today he is an instructor at the Kenosha Technical School.

"When I first faced retirement I

thought I might go into another industry," Bockrath said. "But when I heard about the Stout program, I decided I might like to go into teaching. After I was there for two weeks, I got a change from a narrow viewpoint into a broader approach."

Bockrath considers teaching a rewarding field. "The strongest point is you can utilize your experience and pass it on to other people," he said. "I like it very much."

With a bachelor of science degree in engineering, Bockrath now plans to go on for a master's degree. Going back to school was not difficult for him. "It turned out to be enjoyable and rewarding at Stout," he explained. "The way the program was conducted, the problem of getting back to school was reduced."

Another successful graduate of the program was Tom Drinkwater, a retired Naval commander. After leaving the service, Drinkwater held several positions for Washburn County in Northern Wisconsin.

"I've always thought I'd like to teach," Drinkwater explained, "but when I got out of the military, I didn't have the credits to teach in a high school. I didn't want to go back to school for two more years to get those credits."

However, Drinkwater enrolled in the Stout program last summer after reading an article about it; and today he is an instructor in mathematics and related sciences at the Rice Lake Vocational and Technical School.

"I dreaded going back to school, but this way we were able to get used to getting back to school with people our own age," he explained.

Although teaching has meant more work for him, Drinkwater considers it an ideal profession. "Being off in the summer is a big advantage. I'm not tied down year round, and I can enjoy the outdoors in Northern Wisconsin," he noted.

He also enjoys working with young people. "It gives me a chance to stay young," he said. "I did a good thing; and if I stay in teaching until I'm 65, it will be fine."

Class Notes

'30

A 33-year veteran with the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Company, LEO A. GARDINER has been named to the new position of manager of customer relations. In addition, he will continue to be in charge of all sales recruiting and training for the company.

A veteran district educator, JAY M. PRIEST, will retire June 30 after serving 41 years as a teacher, coach and administrator in McKeesport Area schools. He is presently principal at George Washington Elementary School.

'53

DUFUR M. PETERS, Merrill, Wis., has been named new administrator of Homme Home for the Aging at Wittenberg where he and his family are residing. Peters has been acquainted with Homme Home, having served on the board of directors along with other duties.

'59

MICHAEL BRENNAN (MS 60) has recently been appointed to the position of Wisconsin Education Association Legislative Consultant in Madison.

'62

Captain EDWARD A. CARLSON of Eau Claire, Wis., is a member of a unit that has earned the U. S. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Capt. Carlson is a C-141 Starlifter Transport pilot in the 437th Military Airlift Wing, Charleston AFB, S. C.

'63

JIM PAULUS, offensive coach of the Manitowoc Chiefs and a lineman in the Central States Professional Football League with Manitowoc and Racine since 1963, has been named coach of the Sheboygan Redwings. Paulus was captain of the Stout State University football team in 1962.

BRUCE W. WHELCHER received his master's degree in Industrial Education from Bradley University, Feb. 1.

'64

U. S. Air Force Captain PAUL C. CONNORS of Antigo, Wis., is on duty at Phu Cat AB, Vietnam. Capt. Connors is a pilot with the 361st Tactical Electronics Warfare Squadron, a unit of the Pacific Air Forces.

'65

JOHN F. CLARK, formerly employed by Kraft Foods in Kendallville, Ind., has now transferred to the Kraft Plant in New Ulm, Minn. where he will be superintendent at the cheese plant. His new address is 69 Roselyn Rd., New Ulm.

'67

TED SEHMER (MS 69), one of the new teachers in Beaver Dam public schools, teaches printing in both the Senior and the Junior High Schools and teaches drafting in the Junior High School.

'68

Army Sergeant JAMES R. NELSON, whose wife and parents reside at Route 3, Hartland, Wis., graduated from the 25th Infantry Division Combat Leaders School near Cu Chi, Vietnam. Sgt. Nelson, a squad leader with Company B, 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry of the 9th Infantry Division near Tan An, holds the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism, and the Air Medal.

'69

VERNON G. JOHNSON of Sunburg, Minn., has been commissioned a second lieutenant in the U. S. Air Force upon graduation from Officer Training School at Lackland AFB, Texas. Has was then assigned to Randolph AFB, Texas, for pilot training.

'70

JUDY GULLICKSRUD FOSS is the new Trempealeau County University Extension Home Economics Agent. She is responsible for the development and implementation of the family living phase in the County University Extension Program.

Assuming new duties as industrial arts and driver education teacher is KENNETH R. RANTALA. He is associated with the Hustisford School district.

LINDA BALSON REINHOLZ is the new Waupaca County University Extension Home Economics Agent. Mrs. Reinholz has been active in 4-H work and is very excited about her new duties.

THE STOUT ALUMNUS

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Donald L. Chaput, '71, Photos

Steve Hammer, '70, Photos

William F. Rasche



Dr. William Rasche, a distinguished Stout Alumnus, passed away in March of this year. Dr. Rasche received a bachelor of science degree from the Stout Institute in 1925 and later received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago. He was chosen for Stout's distinguished alumni award in June, 1967.

Beginning as a teacher and principal in small schools in South Dakota and Wisconsin, Dr. Rasche subsequently became professor of vocational education at the University of Pittsburgh and then moved to the General Motors Truck corporation as personnel director.

He moved to the Milwaukee Vocational and Adult School in 1930, became director in 1940 and retired as director emeritus in 1958.

His work at the Milwaukee school helped the institution achieve world-wide renown for the advanced level of vocational education it offers. An article published the week of his death in the Milwaukee Sentinel eulogized Dr. Rasche as a man whose leadership "paved the way for sophisticated vocational training programs which would lead to greater recognition of that level of higher education."

Deaths

'15

JESSIE MCCORKINDALE KEREKES, July 27, at Ames, Ia. She was a faculty member of Iowa State University for many years in the home economics department.

'32

WILLIAM MURRAY, 61, March 16, at Milwaukee, Wis. He had been a teacher in the Milwaukee public schools for nearly 35 years. Survivors are his wife, Marian; two daughters, Kathleen and Mary Margaret; and one brother, James of River Falls.

'51

WAYNE WEST (MS 69), Dec. 29, 1969, at Altoona, Wis. He was guidance director at the Altoona Public School since 1952. Survivors include his wife, Frances; two daughters, Debbie and Jeanne; and a son, Randy.

Marriages

'66

Rosalie Pellish to RICHARD WERNER, Jan. 31, in Mountain Lakes, N. J. At home in Bloomington, Minn., the groom is a field engineer with UNIVAC, St. Paul.

'67

JOANNE HILLMAN to Captain STEVEN FETZER (BS 66), March 28, in Baraboo. The bride is a home economics teacher and Capt. Fetzer is a helicopter pilot with the Marine Corps at Jacksonville, N. C.

'68

SHARON L. REICH to Bruce A. Kurtz, Dec. 6, in Burlington, Wis. The bride had been employed as a home economics teacher at Antioch High School.

'70

LINDA GRACE BALSON to Mark James Reinholz, Jan. 24, in Kimberly, Wis. The bride is employed at the J. C. Penney Co., Appleton, Wis., where the couple will reside.

LANA CHENOWETH to DOUGLAS BAINBRIDGE, April 4, in Waukesha. The bride is employed by the Waukesha County Institution and the bridegroom is employed by Waukesha Motors. At home at 519 Glenwood Dr., Waukesha.

Ruth Ellen Hebert to JEREL JAMES JOHNSON, Jan. 31, in Wisconsin Rapids. The groom has accepted a position as a manufacturing management trainee with General Electric.

Stout Graduates Encounter Strong Employment Market

Many college graduates may be facing a scarce job market this spring, but those with specialty degrees apparently have less to fear, according to placement officials at Stout. Although there is an excess of liberal arts graduates, Stout's concentration is specialized and technical areas should put most of the schools' graduates in a relatively good position when they begin seeking employment.

"This situation is every bit as good this year as it has been in the past and maybe better," said Frank Belisle, director of placement. Belisle noted that in one of the University's largest majors, Industrial Education, there is still an excess of jobs and a limited supply of personnel. Other majors that still provide good job oppor-

tunities are Industrial Technology, Home Economics Education, Early

In Industrial Education Belisle noted, "There has been a shortage of teachers here for several years. In addition there has been an increased need for teachers because of greater emphasis on vocational education."

Robert Schunk, associate director of placement, said Stout graduates in Industrial Technology closely meet the needs of today's industry. "The type of program Stout has is versatile and adaptive to the needs of industry," he stated. The ratio of job offers and specialized graduates in the nine concentrations of Stouts' Industrial Technology program is about equal.

Although liberal arts graduates had been in demand by many companies, a tightening of the purse strings has caused employers to cut back in the hiring of new people from these areas of study. "Not since 1961 have so many companies been so uncertain of their future," Schunk said. "Right now we're finding that many companies are canceling out on job interviews at many campuses. Here at Stout, those who canceled have been replaced by new prospective employers. We didn't lose any ground at all."

Schunk explained that part of the scarcity in certain jobs is caused by business conditions and an influx of college-trained Vietnam veterans returning to this country.

Belisle described the job situation in Home Economics Education as "about as well balanced as can be." He added that the only women who have difficulty in this area are "those who insist on being placed in specific locations where the job market is flooded."

However, both Schunk and Belisle cautioned graduates about being overly optimistic. "Jobs for people with vocational skills are now most readily available," Belisle said. "But this may 'boomerang' if graduates do not keep up their skills to meet changing times."

Little 'Devils

'63

Twin daughters, Melissa Marie and Michelle Marie, Dec. 18, 1969, to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Angelo (ROSE MARY PEICHEL), 204 E. Clinton Ave., Atwater, Calif.

'64

A daughter, Jahnine, Oct. 25, 1969, to Mr. and Mrs. JOHN PAPATRIANTAFYLLOU (MS 65), (CAROLYN GREINKE) (BS 58-MS 65), 1711 Missouri Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. He is an instructor at the South Milwaukee Vocational, Technical and Adult School.

'67

A son, Jeffrey Scott, Jan. 27, to Mr. and Mrs. Richard Erickson (MS 69), (NANCY KOREN) (BS 69), 304 Neptune Lane, Godfrey, Ill.

A son, Eric Wayne, Feb. 13, to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Stan (JUDITH HOLZ), 2625 N. Spalding, Chicago, Ill.

'69

A son, Craig Allan, March 6, to Mr. and Mrs. JOHN J. SMERDA, 1822½ N. Main St., Racine, Wis. He is an instructor at Racine Technical Institute. Childhood Education, Dietetics and Elementary Art.

Sports

After eleven years of challenges, hard work, and numerous frustrations, a dream has come true for John Zuerlein, Stout's head gymnastics coach.

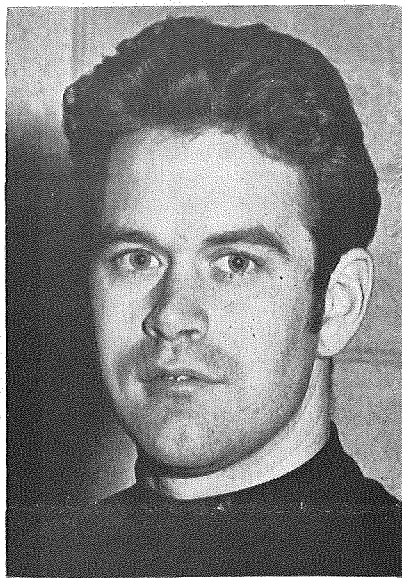
On March 20-21, Stout hosted the National NAIA Gymnastics Championships and a young, determined Blue Devil team finished a strong third in the meet. A well deserved award for Zuerlein who developed the entire Stout gymnastics program.

In 1959, when Zuerlein first stepped onto the Stout campus as a student, the school didn't even have a gymnastics program. His efforts to build gymnastics as an intercollegiate sport at Stout are reflected in his own description of a gymnast: "An individual that likes a challenge, who is willing to put up with frustrations and the hours it takes to learn moves that are technically perfect."

Challenges and frustrations have marked Zuerlein's path since he first proposed that Stout have a gymnastics team. As an undergraduate student, he got the go ahead to develop one in 1962. Besides being the team's leading competitor, he was the coach.

Equipment was hard to come by in those early years. The squad overhauled what limited equipment the school had and even constructed their own.

In 1963, the squad entered its first state university conference meet, managing a third place finish out of the four teams that com-



Coach Zuerlein

peted. Fearful that the University would let the program lapse after his graduation or turn it over to another student who didn't possess the same burning interest, Zuerlein decided to stay on to get a master's degree in industrial education and to continue his coaching.

The University then decided to give him a graduate assistantship, the first time he was paid for his coaching. He now has a faculty appointment with part of his duties devoted to coaching.

His teams have finished lower than second only once in the last six years in conference competition—a third place finish in 1968. The championship has eluded him each year because of a lack of depth.

Two years ago Zuerlein organized and the University hosted its

first interstate high school meet, one of the finest gymnastics meets held for high school athletes in the Midwest. Operating again on a limited budget, Zuerlein and members of the gymnastics team got together to make the trophies that were awarded to individual and team champions.

Financially, statistics show that this year's national meet was the best ever, even though there were fewer students on campus because of Students' Week. Therefore, Zuerlein is considering hosting another national meet in a few years. The other teams certainly won't object as all the coaches felt this was also the smoothest run national gymnastics meet ever held.

Great tribute should be paid to John Zuerlein, a hard working gymnastics coach here at Stout.

Stout State University's fighting Blue Devils completed a successful winter sports season this year with the wrestling team winning the WSU conference, the basketball team ranking second in the conference and second in the district, the gymnastics team placing second in the conference and third in the nation, and the swimming team finishing the highest they have ever finished in the conference.

The highlight of the post season awards was the naming of Sten Pierce as wrestling Coach of the Year in NAIA District 14 and John Zuerlein, gymnastics Coach of the Year. This was the second time he has received the award in the past five years.

Stout State University
Menomonie, Wisconsin / 54751

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